

Kentucky Agri-News

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Featuring: ▶ Agricultural Prices ▶ Farm Labor ▶ Slaughter ▶ Cattle on Feed
 ▶ Chicken & Eggs ▶ Cold Storage ▶ Milk Production

KENTUCKY GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK PRICES MIXED

Prices received for commodities sold by Kentucky farmers at mid-August were mixed for crops while generally up to steady for livestock.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over averaged \$103.00 per cwt. (hundred weight) for mid-August. This was up \$1.00 from the July price while down \$4.00 from August 2006. This was the highest steer and heifer price since September 2006. Beef cow price for mid-month was \$48.00 per cwt., up \$1.00 from July and \$2.00 from the previous August. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds for mid-August averaged \$112.00 per cwt. This was down \$1.00 from the previous month and \$12.00 from August 2006.

Price of barrows and gilts for mid-August was \$50.00 per cwt., unchanged from both the preceding month and previous year. Sows were \$41.00 per cwt. at mid-month. This was up \$1.00 from July and \$7.00 from August 2006. Sows were at their highest price since October 2005.

Sheep and lamb prices were mixed when compared with the previous month, down for sheep while up for lambs. The July sheep price was \$25.00 per cwt., down \$3.00 from the June price and \$10.00 from August 2006. The lamb price was \$99.00 per cwt. This was up \$3.00 from June and \$16.00 from August a year earlier.

Price of all milk at mid-August was \$23.70 per cwt., up 40 cents from the July price and \$10.30 above August 2006. This would be the highest milk price on record. The final milk price will vary from the projected mid-month milk price due to price changes announced by Milk Marketing Orders, actual milk fat content and quantity sold by milk orders.

Grain prices for the month were mixed with corn and soybeans down in price while winter wheat was up. The corn price for mid-month was \$3.35 per bushel, a decrease of 33 cents from July while up 98 cents from August 2006. This would be the lowest corn price in seven months. Soybean mid-

August price was \$7.80 per bushel. This would be down 18 cents from the previous month while up \$2.30 from August 2006. Winter wheat price for mid-month was \$6.20 per bushel, up \$1.09 from the previous July and \$2.77 from August 2006. This would be the highest winter wheat price on record. The previous high was \$6.13 per bushel in April 1996.

The Preliminary U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August at 139, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 2 points (1.4 percent) from July. The Crop Index was down 2 points (1.4 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.7 percent). Producers received lower prices for onions, corn, broilers, and eggs. Higher commodity prices were received for wheat, cattle, strawberries, and broccoli. The overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of cattle, grapes, calves, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20 points (17 percent) from August 2006.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		AUG 2006	JULY 2007	AUG 2007	AUG 2007
		Entire Month		Mid-Month ^a	
All Corn ^{b/} <u>c/</u>	Bu.	2.37	3.68	3.35	3.17
Soybeans ^{b/}	Bu.	5.50	7.98	7.80	7.49
Winter Wheat ^{b/}	Bu.	3.43	5.11	6.20	5.85
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	120.00	140.00	145.00	137.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	70.00	80.00	85.00	118.00
All Hogs	Cwt.	49.40	49.60	49.60	53.20
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	50.00	50.00	50.00	54.10
Sows	Cwt.	34.00	40.00	41.00	36.00
All Beef Cattle ^{d/}	Cwt.	92.40	89.00	90.00	90.50
Steers & Heifers ^{e/}	Cwt.	107.00	102.00	103.00	94.40
Cows	Cwt.	46.00	48.00	49.00	51.50
Calves ^{f/}	Cwt.	124.00	113.00	112.00	129.00
Sheep	Cwt.	35.00	25.00	--	--
Lambs	Cwt.	83.00	99.00	--	--
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	13.40	23.30	23.70	21.70
Hog-Corn Ratios ^{g/}	Bu.	20.8	13.5	14.8	16.8

^{a/} Preliminary. ^{b/} Includes contract sales paid during month. ^{c/} Includes yellow and white corn. ^{d/} "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. ^{e/} 500 lbs. and over. ^{f/} Under 500 lbs. ^{g/} Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

U.S. HIRED WORKERS UP 1 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 3 PERCENT

There were 1,205,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 8-14, 2007, up 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 847,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 358,000 workers.

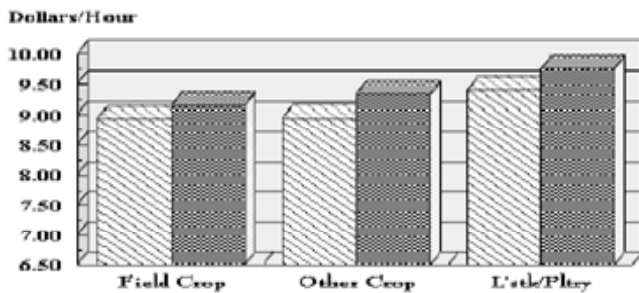
Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.04 per hour during the July 2007 reference week, up 32 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.31 per hour, up 38 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.80 per hour compared with \$9.49 a year

earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.44 per hour, was up 37 cents from last year.

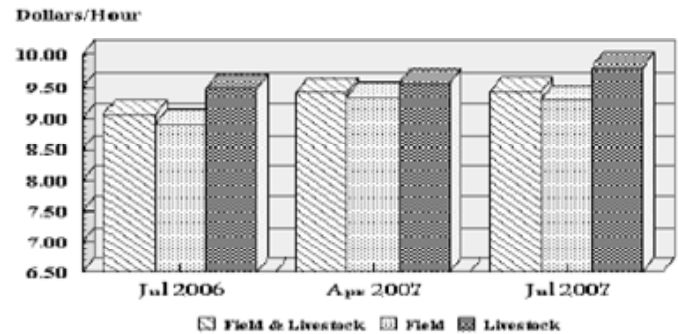
The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee totaled 30,000 during the week of July 8-14, 2007.

Field workers in the region were paid \$8.55 per hour compared to \$8.64 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$9.85 per hour compared to \$9.63 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$9.53.

Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm



U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in July, up 4 percent from the 3.79 billion pounds produced in July 2006. July 2006 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. July 2007 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. **Beef production**, at 2.26 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.90 million head, up 2 percent from July 2006. The average live weight was down 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,269 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.66 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.40 million head, up 7 percent from July 2006. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 264 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: U. S. & KENTUCKY ^{1/}

Type	July 2006	June 2007	July 2007	July 07 % of	
				July 2006	June 2007
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	2,213.6	2,348.7	2,255.7	102	96
Veal	11.2	11.2	10.7	95	95
Pork	1,552.6	*1,654.2	1,659.0	107	100
Lamb & Mutton	13.2	13.7	13.5	102	98
Total U.S.	3,790.6	*4,027.8	3,938.9	104	98
Total Kentucky	38.9	43.5	45.4	117	104

^{1/} Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. * Revised.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. JULY 2006 & 2007 ^{1/}

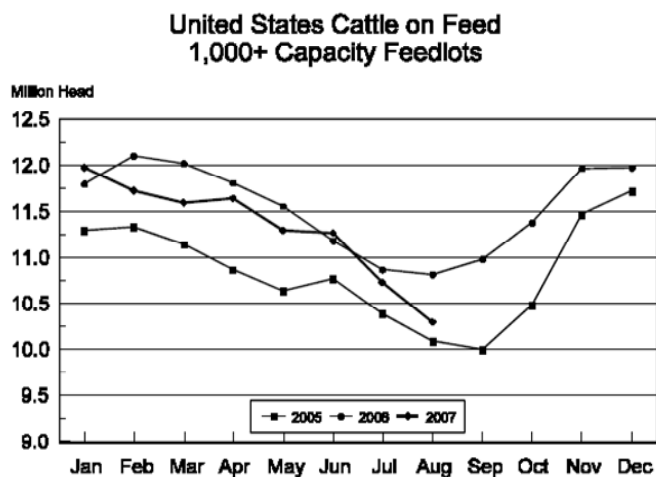
Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.0	1.1	926	1,088	961	980
Hogs	195.0	226.3	50,868	59,253	261	262
Sheep & Lambs	0.9	1.2	112	153	132	130
United States						
Cattle	2,834.0	2,901.6	3,598,226	3,672,121	1,273	1,269
Hogs	7,882.0	8,396.6	2,074,519	2,216,567	263	264
Sheep & Lambs	202.4	204.7	26,303	26,821	130	131

^{1/} Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.3 million head on August 1, 2007. The inventory was 5 percent below August 1, 2006 but 2 percent above August 1, 2005.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.62 million, 17 percent below 2006 and 3 percent below 2005. Net placements were 1.56 million. This is the lowest placements for the month of July since the series began in 1996. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 360,000, 600-699 pounds were 312,000, 700-799 pounds were 445,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 505,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during July totaled 2.0 million, 3 percent above 2006 and 4 percent above 2005. **Other disappearance** totaled 61,000 during July, 5 percent above 2006 but unchanged from 2005.



UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	July 2006	July 2007	July '07 as % of July '06
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,645	7,574	99
Average Layers (000)	341,252	338,978	99
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,240	2,234	100
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	30,776	33,713	110
Chicks Hatched (000)	34,897	33,224	109
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	661,365	675,750	102
Chicks Hatched (000)	801,537	820,865	102

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2007 were greater than year earlier levels for pork and butter.

All U.S. Warehouse Stocks				July 2007 as % of	
Commodity	July 31 2006	June 30 2007	July 31 2007	July 2006	June 2007
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	727,855	629,993	645,917	89	103
Turkey	512,223	448,106	502,635	98	112
Ducks	7,506	7,752	9,191	122	119
Total Frozen Poultry	1,247,584	1,085,851	1,157,743	93	107
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	479,218	429,078	467,479	98	109
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	30,506	47,214	31,463	103	67
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	417,769	467,949	459,795	110	98
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	915,539	918,438	947,242	103	103

MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for July 2007 totaled 102 million pounds, down 1 percent from July 2006 and down 3 percent from June 2007. Average number of cows on farms, at 89,000, was down 8,000 head from a year earlier, and down 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,150 pounds, up 90 pounds from last year, but down 20 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during July totaled 14.5 billion pounds, up 3.9 percent from July

2006. June revised production, at 14.2 billion pounds, was up 1.2 percent from June 2006. The June revision represented an increase of 6.0 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,743 pounds for July, 55 pounds above July 2006. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.31 million head, 50,000 head more than July 2006, and 14,000 head more than June 2007.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR JULY, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>1/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		2007 as %
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	of 2006
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,774	1,808	1,760	1,910	3,122	3,453	111
IL	103	103	1,600	1,550	165	160	97
IN	166	166	1,670	1,685	277	280	101
KY	97	89	1,060	1,150	103	102	99
MO	115	110	1,270	1,220	146	134	92
OH	274	276	1,470	1,530	403	422	105
VA	103	100	1,390	1,465	143	147	103
WI	1,243	1,248	1,610	1,670	2,001	2,084	104
23 State							
Total	8,258	8,308	1,688	1,743	13,937	14,483	104

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Internet Access: Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>